

      
**REDBRIDGE LIFE**

**ZERO  
TOLERANCE  
ON TIPPERS!**



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**HOMES  
FOR LOCAL  
PEOPLE**



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# A mammoth community effort



Murals and magical makeovers on Ilford Lane, page 22

**COLOURS**  
of Redbridge



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and **better** than before! Coming soon...

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## HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in person at the Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD.  
Visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) for information, agendas, and links to view online.

### Council

Thursday 26 June **7.15pm**

### Cabinet

Thursday 19 June **7.15pm**

Thursday 17 July **7.15pm**

### Planning Committee

Monday 23 June **7.15pm**

Wednesday 16 July **7.15pm**

### Licensing Committee

Wednesday 18 June **7.15pm**

### External Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 3 July **7.15pm**

### Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 8 July **7.15pm**

### Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 17 June **7.15pm**

### Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 30 June **2.15pm**

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 12 June **7.15pm**

Monday 14 July **7.15pm**

### Governance and Assurance

Monday 7 July **7.15pm**

### General Purposes Committee

Thursday 17 July **8pm**

## Produced by Redbridge Council

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Next issue out in September

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# LEADER'S MESSAGE

## Welcome to the Summer edition of Redbridge Life

### Dear neighbours,

Summer is here, and as we enjoy the longer, warmer days, this edition of Redbridge Life brings you everything you need to make the most of our brilliant Borough.

We've had a busy few months, and I've been out and about hearing what matters to you and working hard with my teams to look at how we can kickstart growth in Redbridge.

I recently gave my annual address at Full Council which has given me an opportunity to reflect. We have achieved so much, and we strive every day to make our services better, but where we get things wrong, we hold our hands up and go again.

I also talked about exciting 12 months ahead of us. We're breaking ground on our new lido in Valentines Park, and we've got the pool and leisure centre coming soon in Wanstead. I know that's been delayed, but whilst others are cutting and closing, we are building. We've got a world-class

climbing centre coming to Ley Stret, right on our doorstep.

These facilities mean our community get local, affordable access to leisure and every penny of extra income we generate from these investments will be pumped straight back into vital services like children's social care. We've also got a new youth and education hub coming to Wanstead, built on the model of our Loxford centre, which will be a setting where we can deliver essential alternative provision for our young people.

In this issue, we're shining a spotlight on amazing community efforts through our We Are Redbridge action days, our fantastic parks where we're planting some new flower beds to add more colour, our new local murals, and new affordable homes on Loxford Lane.

Keeping our neighbourhoods safe is my top priority, and you'll find an important update from the Borough Commander on the work the police are doing to keep us safe.

I'm delighted that the Redbridge Photography Awards competition is also back. I was so impressed last year, with some of the pictures ending up on my office wall. A big thank you to all our sponsors for making this possible!

Your local councillors are here to help and support you with anything you need from your council. Please do get in touch with your ward councillors to raise any issues or concerns you might have; they're ready and eager to assist. Their details are readily available on our website.

Please keep your eye out for a bumper Discover Redbridge booklet coming soon. This will highlight all the amazing places and things to see across our Borough this summer and all year round. Have a fantastic summer, and I hope you enjoy everything our borough has to offer!

**Councillor Kam Rai**  
Leader of Redbridge Council



## Local people celebrate VE day in style – you can too!

### South Woodford success story shows how easy it is to bring neighbours together

This summer, local people across Redbridge are being encouraged to host their own street parties and bring their communities together, just like the wonderful VE Day celebration organised by Geraldine in South Woodford!

On Monday 5th May 2025, neighbours from Alexandra Road and Burton Road came together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Over 120 people of all ages joined in for a fun-filled day of music, games, food, and laughter.

The street was closed to traffic, and colourful bunting stretched across the road. Kids kicked off the day with football and street games, while adults helped decorate tables and set up a delicious buffet with home-cooked meals and sweet treats. Each family brought their own drinks, and jugs of refreshing Pimms, kindly donated by the local shop, were shared around.

There were lots of traditional games like egg and spoon races, three-legged races, limbo, and a tug of war. "Pass the parcel" was a big hit with both kids and adults, and a brave few even volunteered



**Geraldine (centre) with her neighbours at the VE Day street party in South Woodford**

to sit in the stocks and get soaked with wet sponges! The laughter didn't stop as a conga line danced its way through the street and into the local shop - much to everyone's delight!

"It was such a joyful day," said Geraldine, one of the organisers. "New neighbours were amazed at how friendly everyone was. It really showed the power of community."



Why not host your own street party this summer? For more information, visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/street-parties>

Or scan the QR code



# Zero tolerance – getting tough on tippers

## No excuse for fly tipping

The majority of our residents do their bit to make the borough a better place. Unfortunately, a small minority believe dumping rubbish on our streets is acceptable.

Our message is clear: It is not acceptable. We will find and fine those who choose to dump rubbish illegally.

This type of antisocial behaviour not only creates an eyesore but also significantly impacts the quality of life for people in our neighbourhoods.

Our Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers have been working tirelessly to identify and target these selfish individuals. The Team has also been targeting property owners who throw rubbish in their front gardens, bringing our neighbourhoods down.

### Some of this recent activity includes:

#### Perrymans Farm Road, Newbury Park



BEFORE



AFTER

#### Roebuck Road, Hainault



BEFORE



AFTER

#### Aldborough, Seven Kings



BEFORE



AFTER

**CLEANER**  
Redbridge

#### Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council said



"Fly-tipping in our borough is entirely unacceptable. We collect bulky and green garden waste for free – and we still have weekly bin and recycling collections, so there is no excuse to dump rubbish on our streets. It's unnecessary for fines to be given when there are easy ways to dispose your waste.

**"If you have video footage of flytipping in your neighbourhood, tell us and we will find and fine the offenders. Please scan the QR code below."**



We recently launched our **Crime Not to Care** campaign to highlight how we all play a part in keeping our borough clean and tidy.

**Our Enforcement Officers will find evidence to identify and track fly-tippers**



**Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety and Cllr Jo Blackman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability**



#### Reporting fly-tips

Reporting fly-tips is easy. You can do it online through the Report It page <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it> or via the Love Clean Streets App.

#### Untidy front gardens

Report untidy gardens at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets>



# Policing our neighbourhoods

## Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Community Protection Taskforce are tackling antisocial behaviour in local communities

**SAFER  
Redbridge**

Anti-social behaviour makes life difficult for people and upsets local communities. We know how much this matters to local people, and we're taking it seriously. That's why the borough has dedicated police teams working together to deal with anti-social behaviour. They're here to take action and help keep our streets and neighbourhoods safe for everyone.

**Councillor Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety is a strong supporter of local safer neighbourhood police teams (SNT's). He said:**

"They are made up of police and community support officers, and work closely with the council, community leaders, and neighbours to identify and address issues such as antisocial behaviour, drugs, robberies, and other crimes. I am pleased that we have a dedicated team in each Redbridge ward that can be contacted quickly and easily. It's vital that local people report crime to the police every time, as we use that data and challenge the police on your behalf."



**Clr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety alongside Superintendent Clare McCarthy (left) and Superintendent Neal Donohoe**

**Redbridge Police Lead Superintendent Clare McCarthy said**

"Our friendly Safer Neighbourhood Teams are at the heart of local policing. They are working tirelessly with the council to tackle antisocial behaviour in our communities and make people feel safer. Please stop and say hello if you see them out in the community."

If you're out and about in the borough, you've likely seen our Community Protection Taskforce (CPTF) in action. This dedicated group of officers is making a significant impact in reducing antisocial behaviour

The CPTF was launched in June 2023 to tackle unlawful street activity, such as aggressive begging, street drinking, and prostitution, in areas covered by the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) we have in place.

We're working with the police to enforce our PSPOs so residents and visitors can feel safe. You can help us by calling 101 to report anti-social behaviour.



**CPTF officers on patrol in Barking High Street**

Redbridge CPTF officers have issued 590 Fixed Penalty Notices.

Nearly 50% of the FPNs were issued to men attempting to buy sex.

The remaining FPNs were issued for a range of offences, including street drinking, aggressive begging, and other unlawful activities.

**Contact your local police team today**

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/local-policing-team-contact/contact-your-local-policing-team>

**or scan the QR code**



# Borough Commander answers your questions

We caught up with the borough's top officer and asked him about what's being done to keep local people safe

Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell - Borough Commander for the North and East Area answers questions put to him at a recent public session.

## What is being done to tackle drug dealing in Redbridge?

"The Police do a range of things, including drug warrants on identified drug premises and proactive operations to target drug dealers.

"Additionally, when specific problems and areas are reported, the Police will use the dedicated team to have a visible presence to act as a deterrent. It is essential that drug dealing and taking are reported so an intelligence picture can be built and an effective response and patrols can be put in place."

## I am concerned about the level of shoplifting and worried it puts off businesses?

"We have a duty to try and enforce against this crime; there are several things that we are doing across the partnership. We're working closely

with the Business Improvement District to listen to retailers and provide support that will make shoplifting less likely to happen."

## How can we see more police walking our streets?

"Every ward in Redbridge has a neighbourhood policing team with two constables and a PCSO. The town centre team also has 25 officers working across different shifts. Our town centre team make a lot of arrests, carrying out proactive and undercover operations where police work may not be visible."

"We also have ward panels in every single ward, which we encourage residents to take part in. These ward panels are a good opportunity to talk to your local police, help shape local policing and set priorities."

You can find out more about your local team and when their next public meetings are by visiting [www.met.police.uk/area/your-area](http://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area)



Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell outside Ilford Police Station

## How can you report crime?

Crime can be reported online at [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) or by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Visit [www.met.police.uk/area/your-area](http://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area) to find who your local Safer Neighbourhood team is and who you can report information to directly. These local police teams will collect this data and create a plan to resolve the issue.

In an emergency, always dial 999

**REDBRIDGE FABULA FESTIVAL**  
7 - 19 JULY 2025

A celebration of **books** and **culture** in your local library this summer!

VISION IS LIBRARIES

storytelling  
arts & crafts  
creative workshops  
and much more!

For more information visit [www.visionrcl.org.uk/fabula](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/fabula)

fabula reading challenge

**SUMMER GYM**

**3 MONTH GYM ONLY MEMBERSHIP FOR £100**

Shaping up for summer? Get active and feel great with our special offer!

VISION IS LEISURE

Access to 5 gyms  
Free friend Fridays  
Free bike hire  
Sign up by 31 August

For more information visit [www.visionrcl.org.uk/join](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/join)

VISION REDBRIDGE CULTURE & LEISURE



**Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 June**  
Tit for Tat Circus  
Now I Am Become d/Deaf  
(Destroyer of Words)



**June to October 2025**  
**Barkingside on Saturdays**  
**and**  
**Ilford Town Centre on Sundays**

Join us for **FREE** theatre, circus,  
music and dance on  
a high street  
near you.

# REDBRIDGE OUTDOOR ARTS

Share the  
experience!



**Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 July**  
Sonia Sabri Company  
Mughal Miniatures  
Animal Paradise



**Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 September**  
Chad Taylor  
Closer To My Dreams



**Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 October**  
Jeanefer Jean-Charles  
Patois



@redbridgearts

visionrcl.org.uk/ROA

## Apply for a summer of free activities and meals for your child

Children can enjoy a range of fun and educational activities this summer through the Redbridge Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme



Looking for enriching and fun-filled activities for your children during the summer holidays? The HAF Programme offers free, engaging activities across four weeks between July and August for four days a week.

Delivered by Redbridge Council, the programme provides free food and character-building experiences aimed at keeping children active and learning outside of school. HAF collaborates with partners, such as Empower Youth, Learning Hive, Kids In Charge, and Redbridge Youth Services, to deliver a variety of activities, including sports, creative arts, educational workshops, and nutritional education.



The summer HAF programme provides sports activities and educational workshops

### A parent whose child attended last summer said

"The diverse range of activities offered by the programme helped my daughter in various ways. It has contributed to her personal growth, social development, and overall well-being. She enjoyed every moment and gained valuable experiences that will stay with her for a lifetime."

**Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, and Councillor Lloyd Duddridge, Cabinet Member for Children, visited Little Gears School to distribute toys donated by the Kindness Offensive**



The programme is for children from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM). Parents or guardians can apply, as well as schools and local services for eligible families. Spaces are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure you apply quickly via <https://eequ.org/redbridgehaf>

# REDBRIDGE REWIND

Exploring the Rich History of our Borough

## History of VE Day celebrations

On Thursday 8 May 2025, the country marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). Many of our residents hosted street parties over the May Bank Holiday weekend but how was the first VE Day celebrated in Redbridge?



**VE Day celebrations at Ilford Town Hall, 8 May 1945**

Local people held street parties to celebrate. Ilford held 113 street parties while smaller populated areas Wanstead and Woodford held 43 parties.

Large tables lined the streets with banners and flags. There were games, singing, and dancing and lights were turned on at night to show that 'the blackout' was over.



**VE Day street party, Dudley Road, Ilford. Many men were still away fighting and those celebrating hold a sign: 'Thank You Daddy, Hurry Home'**

**Mrs Cotton celebrated VE Day as a child in Birkbeck Road, Newbury Park and said**

"When the tables were cleared and the games were over, the parents were out for all of the evening dancing in the street."



**VE Day party, Birkbeck Road, Newbury Park**

On 9 May 1945, the Royal Family visited Ilford on a tour of the most bombed areas of East London. They met local people at the



bombed-out Super Cinema, just opposite Ilford Railway Station.

**The Royal Family visit Ilford, 9 May 1945**

Despite the celebrations, the war continued. On 15 August 1945 Japan surrendered, marking the end of the Second World War and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) was declared. The celebrations were more subdued than VE Day.



**VJ Day 1945, somewhere in Ilford**

On 31 May to 3 June 1946, the borough of Wanstead and Woodford held their official victory celebrations on Woodford Green to mark one year since VE Day. They held a fair, which was attended by guest of honours wartime Prime Minister and local MP Winston Churchill.



**Churchill arrives at Wanstead & Woodford's victory celebrations, 1 June 1946**

**Churchill said**

"Here in Woodford [and] Wanstead... you have done... more than the average share in the great manifestation of British fortitude and British valour..."

Redbridge Museum is holding a special exhibition on Redbridge in the Second World War. To find out more visit [www.visionrcl.org.uk/museum](http://www.visionrcl.org.uk/museum)

Photographs courtesy of Redbridge Heritage Centre



## Let us know about YOUR LOCAL HERO!

Our borough is full of kind and wonderful people who do great things for their local community, but we don't always get to hear about it. We think it's time to shine a spotlight on the everyday heroes that help make Redbridge a great place to call home.



### Meet Timi Veerasamy and Andrew Gwilliam – two of the organisers behind Redbridge's volunteer led 'Valentines parkrun'!

For more than ten years Valentines parkrun has been helping local people stay active, strengthen community bonds and forge new friendships.

Every Saturday the free event sees hundreds of local people come together in Valentines Park, in Ilford, to complete a 5K course around the park, either by running or walking.

The whole event is entirely reliant on volunteers from within the community helping out to ensure the run goes smoothly for participants on the day.

Timi Veerasamy and Andrew Gwilliam are two locals who've been volunteering at Valentines parkrun since the early days, helping to develop it into the thriving community event it is today.

Andrew, 51, from Ilford, is an Event Director for Valentines parkrun, which sees him volunteer his time to play a strategic role in shaping the event.

Over the years he has helped develop parkrun from a small-scale event that started with just 25 runners in 2011, to a community spirited success story which now boasts hundreds of participants.

Around 300 people turn up weekly to take part, and it attracts local people of all abilities, and backgrounds – including families and children.

**Andrew, second image above, also manages the Run Directors, who are also volunteers and have responsibility for overseeing the run on the day, he said**

"I'm proud of how Valentines parkrun has grown and become such a big part of the local community. We have young children taking part to people in their 80s and beyond", said Andrew. "There is such a brilliant positive atmosphere around the event when participants turn up to the park."

"The event completely relies on volunteers and the runs could not happen without them. They are the backbone of the event from the volunteer marshals on the course directing the runners, to those recording participants' running and walking times. They all deserve recognition for the fantastic job they do."

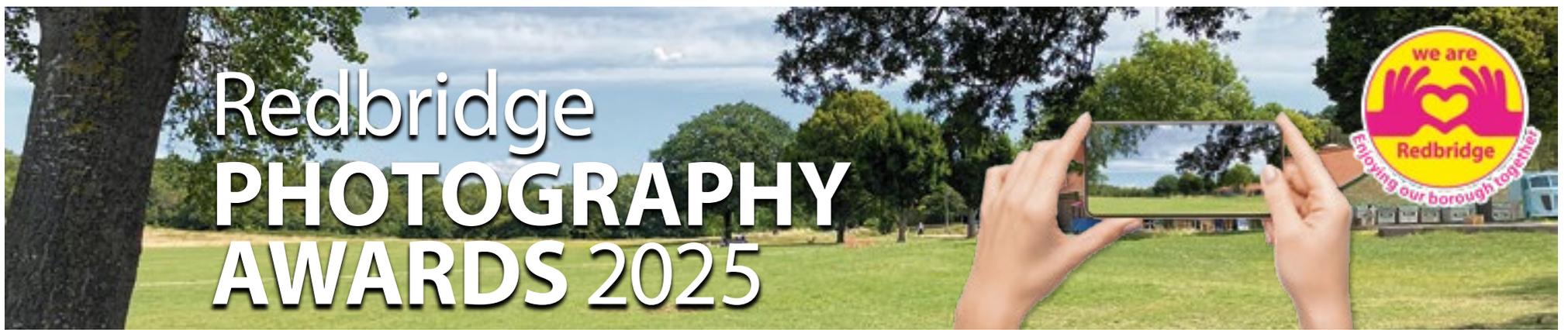
Timi Veerasamy, 73, from Chadwell Heath is one of several volunteer Run Directors for Valentines parkrun and helps ensure the large scale event is managed well on the day.

Timi's passion for running and helping grow Valentines parkrun has inspired her own family to get involved. Her children also participate in runs, as well as manage their own parkrun and similar events in neighbouring boroughs.

**Timi, pictured above far right, said**

"Over the years we have been able to get local people active and participating regardless of running experience. The course is designed to be run or walked – and is for everyone. We've had people take part to meet new people, spend time with family, improve their mental health and well-being, as well as to stay active and fit. The wonderful thing is many lasting friendships have been formed both through participating as a runner, and by giving your time as a volunteer at the event."

For more information go to <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/valentines>



# Enter the Redbridge photography competition - snap, share and win great prizes!

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced photographer, this is your chance to share your talent and celebrate the beauty of Redbridge. Get snapping and be part of the Redbridge Photography Awards 2025!

Photographers whose pictures are shortlisted will be invited to an award ceremony later this year. Winning photos will be displayed in an exhibition and celebrated in the autumn edition of Redbridge Life.

## PRIZES

- A personalised trophy
- £50 John Lewis voucher
- £10 Amazon voucher
- Four-ball golf voucher to use at Ilford Golf Club
- Two treats at Peaches Bubble Tea (Ilford)
- £15 voucher to use at Ottoman Doner (Ilford)
- £10 voucher to use at Honey Special Cake (East Ham)
- Check out the other prizes on the competition website

## Categories

- **Redbridge Pets** – This category is all about capturing the unique personality of your furry, feathered, or even scaly friends and their special moments.
- **Redbridge Heroes** – Lets celebrate the amazing people in our community. Do you know someone making a difference in Redbridge? Take their photo and share a few words about how they help make Redbridge a better place.
- **Redbridge Places** – This category highlights the borough's unique architecture and special locations. Whether it's a historic landmark, or a

hidden gem, we want to see the places that make Redbridge special.

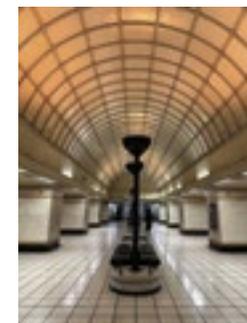
- **Redbridge Nature** – Redbridge is home to beautiful parks, gardens, and wildlife. From a peaceful forest to a tiny insect on a flower, show us the wonders of Redbridge's nature.
- **Redbridge Young People's Award** – This special category is for photographers under 18 to submit photos that reflect their view of Redbridge—whether it's friends, family, places, or everyday life.

## Winner of last year's competition



Redbridge Nature category:  
**Callum Church**

Redbridge Young Peoples category:  
**Amber Madeley-Fox**



Redbridge Places category:  
**Sue Rosner**

Redbridge People category:  
**Paul Fox**



## HOW TO ENTER?

You can upload your pictures and find more information at <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/rpa-2025> or simply scan the QR code



- This competition is open to everyone, no matter your photography experience or ability
- Enter before 12 August 2025

**Good luck to everyone taking part!**

Proudly sponsored by:



# Disability Festival in the Park returns this summer!

Celebrate inclusivity and enjoy live entertainment at the only fully accessible festival in the borough

Our one-of-a-kind Disability Festival is back this July, coinciding with Disability Pride Month. The fun-filled day, organised with local charity partners, celebrates diversity, raises awareness, and is tailored to everyone's needs as it's designed by people with disabilities.

## Get ready for:

-  Live music performances
-  Comedians
-  Arts and crafts activities
-  Information stalls
-  Delicious food and drinks

## Where and when:

Christchurch Green,  
Wanstead,  
E11 2RH  
  
Wednesday 23 July  
  
12pm to 7pm

The free festival aims to bring the community together in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Supported by local estate agents, The Stow Brothers, it attracts people from Redbridge and beyond.

**Local resident, Sam Levene, who attended last year's festival, said** "I love being part of the festival because I can be myself. The festival helps to raise awareness with the general public and show that just because we have a disability, we are not different, and have skills and talent."



**Local resident, Sam Levene, enjoying last year's Disability Festival in the Park**



There will be helpful resources on living independently and staying healthy! Plus, we've made sure the event is fully accessible to everyone, with facilities like accessible toilets, hoists, and washing areas for those who need extra support.



For more details, scan the QR code or visit [www.tinyurl.com/dafestival25](http://www.tinyurl.com/dafestival25) or contact [dafestivalredbridge@gmail.com](mailto:dafestivalredbridge@gmail.com)

## Are you looking after a child who is not your own?

London Borough of  
Redbridge 



- is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?
- are you NOT the child's step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students
- do you plan to have the child with you for more than 28 days?
- this is called '**private fostering**' and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services  
020 8708 3885 [CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)  
or visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering)

## Discover the great outdoors in Redbridge!

Did you know Redbridge is home to some of the best outdoor spaces in London?

Whether you're looking to unwind, get active, or spend quality time with friends and family, there's something for everyone - and it's all free!

Here's what you'll find across the borough:

- **Parks** - Perfect for picnics, peaceful walks, or a day out with the kids. We've even got two parks ranked among the top 10 in the UK!
- **Outdoor spaces** - We have dozens of green spaces in Redbridge, so there's sure to be one round the corner from you. How many of our parks have you been to?
- **Outdoor gyms** - We've got 10 FREE outdoor gyms in our parks... perfect for staying in shape this summer.
- **Tennis courts** - Ten of our parks have tennis courts, for peak Wimbledon vibes. Serve those aces, Serena and Venus-style.
- **Forests and woods** - Home to over 700 hectares of ancient oak and hornbeam woodland

Look out for your Discover Redbridge booklet, which will come through your door soon. It's packed full of things to do in the borough this summer!

Find out more at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover)



# Rogue landlords beware

## Redbridge Council is working hard to protect private tenants

Our new licensing schemes came into effect in November 2023 and April 2024, meaning landlords under these schemes should have renewed their licences by now.

We've been busy working with landlords to ensure compliance with our licencing schemes and clamping down on those operating properties without the required licence. In these properties, there is often overcrowding, fire safety and electrical hazards, and cases of tenants sleeping in illegal outbuildings, also known as 'beds in sheds'.

### Some of our recent enforcement activity includes:

#### House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) - Loxford Ward

Despite the property permitting only five people/four households to live there, the Private Sector Housing Team found it to be severely overcrowded, with twelve-bed spaces, severe dampness and mould, a cockroach and rodent infestation, and serious fire hazards.

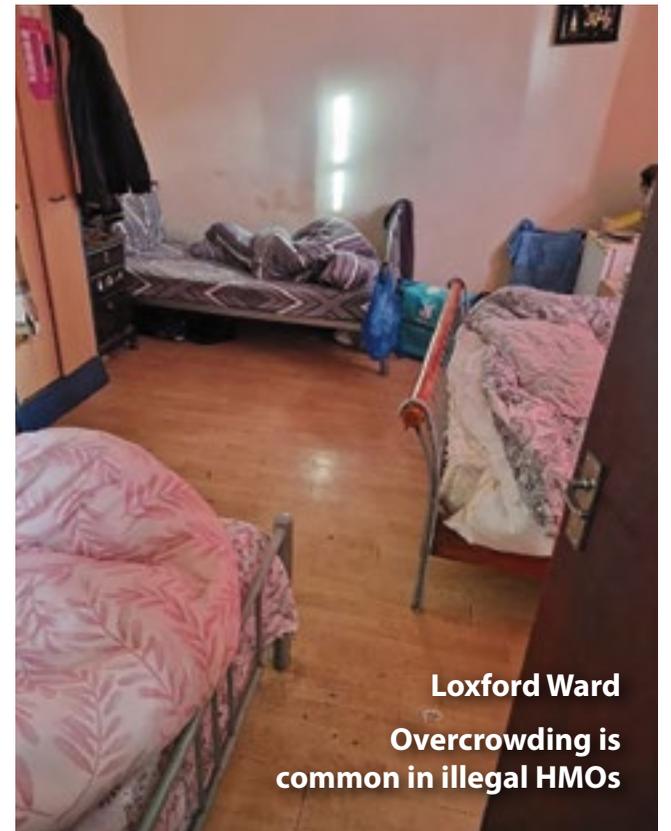
The Council is now gathering evidence for prosecution.

#### Unlicensed HMO – Mayfield Ward

The Council received a report that the property was operating as an unlicensed HMO with inadequate fire detection. The Private Sector Housing Team found the five-bedroom ground-floor flat occupied by a minimum of six people, while tenants used a building in the garden as sleeping accommodation. The prosecution is ongoing against both the owner and the licence holder.

#### Since 1 October 2023, our Private Housing Team has:

- Issued 12,255 property licences
- Conducted 4,548 housing inspections
- Issued 155 Civil Penalty Notices
- Identified 609 serious and immediate risks to health and safety



**Loxford Ward**  
Overcrowding is common in illegal HMOs

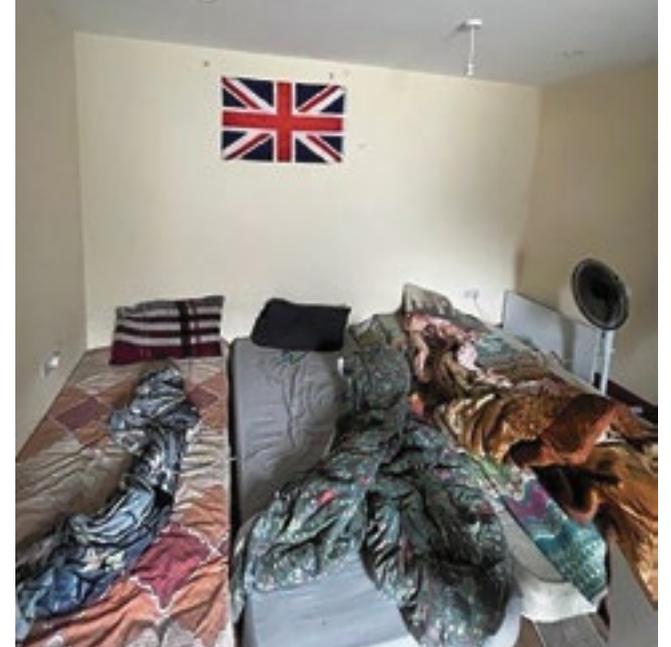
Under the Council's two Selective Licensing schemes, it is estimated there are over 36,000 properties that require a property licence.

Since 1 November 2023, Selective Scheme 3 has been in operation. This scheme applies to rented properties in Valentines and Ilford Town wards.

Since 8 April 2024, Selective Scheme 4 has been in operation. This scheme applies to 15 additional wards in the borough, including Aldborough, Barkingside, Chadwell, Churchfields, Clementswood, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Goodmayes, Hainault, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury, Seven Kings, South Woodford, and Wanstead Village.

#### Mayfield Ward

#### Multiple tenants occupying the same room



#### Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said

"In general, private landlords in Redbridge act responsibly by following the rules to ensure their tenants live in safe, clean, and comfortable conditions, as we should expect.

"We fully understand that renting a property comes with its challenges and things can go wrong from time to time, and when they do, the council will work with responsive landlords who address the issues and take responsibility. However, we will not take kindly to landlords ignoring or shirking their legal responsibilities, and we will have no hesitation in imposing fines where applicable. The safety of tenants in our borough will always be our top priority."

# What's on our doorstep



We are exploring our town centres. **In this edition, we're in Hainault.**



One of the standout qualities of Hainault is its warm, community atmosphere. It's the kind of place where families settle, friendships grow, and neighbours look out for one another. A stroll through Hainault reveals a lively mix of independent shops, cosy cafes, and eateries offering everything from classic British fare to flavourful South Asian and Italian dishes. New coffee spots and small businesses are popping up, adding a fresh energy to the area.

Hainault offers the best of both worlds — a well-connected suburb with excellent local shops and a Central Line station providing direct access to London's West End in under 45 minutes. Residents enjoy an abundance of award-winning green spaces right on their doorstep. A standout is Hainault Forest Country Park, a popular destination featuring scenic woodland walks, a tranquil lake, and a family-friendly farm — perfect for weekend adventures.

Right at the centre of local life is the community centre, nestled beside Hainault Library. Inside, it's a hive of activity. Every Tuesday, the centre hosts a Community Café – local people can drop in for a cup of tea, a slice of cake, and a friendly chat. It's also a great place to get involved in light activities - chair-based exercises are especially popular, as we saw during a recent visit for their cheerful VE Day celebrations. It's just one of the many ways Hainault brings people together.

Inside the community centre, nestled by Hainault library, is a hive of activity. Every Tuesday there's a coffee morning, which is free for anyone to drop into, to have a cup of tea, some cake, a catch up with friends, and to join in with an activity. Chair-based exercises are a hit, with numerous people talking about this when we popped in recently for their VE Day celebrations.



**We caught up with locals, Ashad and Hasna Zaman, Jayant Patel and Yogendra Patel who are regulars at Hainault Community Cafe, who told us "With the forest and Fairlop Waters, it's so green near here. We've got the smaller shops along Manford Way, but it's also easy to hop on a bus to Barkingside for a big shop."**



**Jennifer, pictured left, moved to Hainault in 1986 and has seen lots of change in the almost 40 years since.** "People used to enjoy meeting friends at the pub further along Manford Way, but that's closed now, which is a real shame. But it's wonderful to come here and see everyone. I come every week."

The closure of certain venues and meeting places is common across the country, but coming to Hainault Community Café, it's clear that this provides that sense of belonging.



**Clive brought along some of his old coins as a reference to the past, and knowledgeably explained what £3, 13s, 1d looked like.**

## Kevin who runs JLS Pet & Garden Supplies said

"I've got a passion for fish and animals, and love serving Hainault's friendly community. After 35 years in the trade, it's great seeing loyal customers return to the shop."



**On the same day as the VE Day celebrations, the group - along with Cllr Kam Rai, leader of the council (pictured right) - also celebrated Rose's 99th birthday. Rose said,** "I moved to Hainault 40 years ago, having lived in Dagenham. It's a lovely community here. I really didn't expect a birthday party today!"



For more information on Community Cafes please visit

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/community-engagement-and-cafes>

# Transforming your life through adult education

## Neerja's inspiring journey: from student to Teaching Assistant



Neerja Singh moved to the UK from India with limited English and is now on a pathway to becoming a teaching assistant.

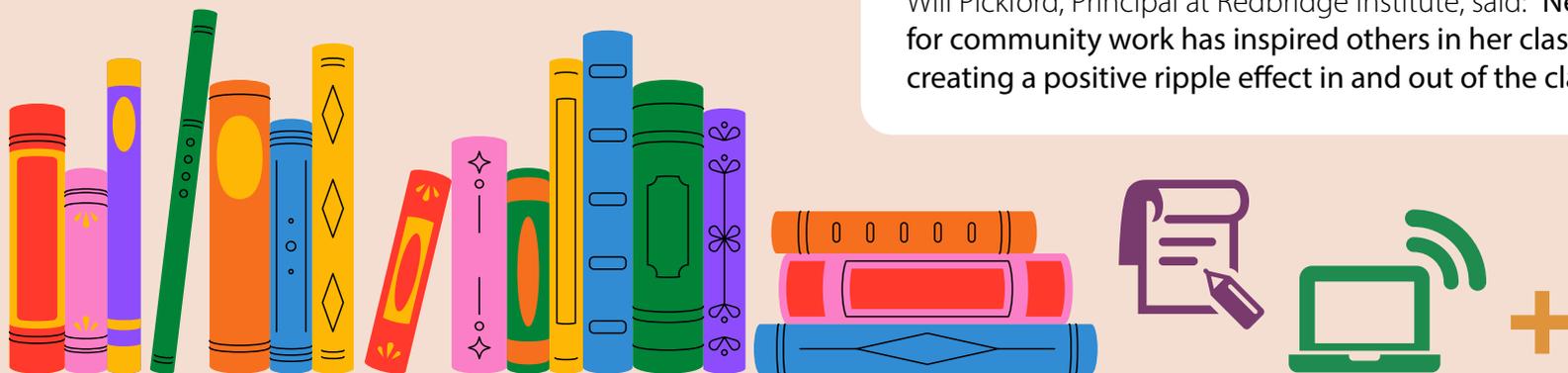
**Neerja explains** "Everyday tasks like going to the doctors, shopping or booking an online appointment, became very daunting without literacy, numeracy and digital skills."

"Joining a community ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class in Hainault run by Redbridge Institute, was the first steps to unlocking my dream, of becoming a teaching assistant."

"Progressing onto improving maths for work and completing a series of digital courses, I am really excited to be enrolled on a Teaching Assistant course now."

"I am committed to volunteering at the Food Bank, Vision Redbridge Culture team, and Colours of Redbridge."

Will Pickford, Principal at Redbridge Institute, said: "Neerja's enthusiasm for community work has inspired others in her class to volunteer, creating a positive ripple effect in and out of the classroom."



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of Adult Education  
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through adult education*

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Share homes. Shape lives.

# Foster for Redbridge Council

We want to hear from you whether you're just considering fostering for the first time and want to find out a little more, or if you're an experienced carer looking to transfer from an independent fostering agency.

With our increased allowances, specialist fostering pathways, Council Tax discount and many other benefits, there has never been a better time to join our fantastic team of foster carers and provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment to a baby, child or young person that they can call home.

**Take the first step. Call us to find out more about fostering for our fabulous Borough.**

"The thing I love most about fostering for Redbridge Council is seeing the progress children and young people make during the time they are with us. From surviving to thriving."

**Tracy, Redbridge Council  
Foster Carer**

"After seeing the outstanding support Redbridge gave the young person in our care, we decided to transfer. There are many opportunities to be further involved and develop yourself. We have no regrets."

**Alison and Mick, Redbridge  
Council Foster Carers**



## Contact us

Local Community Fostering Redbridge **020 8708 6068**  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife)



# Become a Community Health Champion

## Help local people to live healthier lives



Community Health Champions are local people dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of Redbridge communities. In our Community Health Champions WhatsApp group we share important health updates, links to relevant services and up-to-date information. Join our WhatsApp group and share these updates with your neighbours, family, and community groups.

Take it one step further and become a Community Health Champion yourself. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with your community and help increase residents' engagement with their health. This will include helping us to promote health messages, joining local health events, and inviting us to speak at community groups about health and wellbeing.

Information on how to sign up for the WhatsApp group and apply to become a Community Health Champion are at:

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/community-health-champions>



### Community Champion Alan said

"I love being part of a welcoming space where everyone feels valued. Volunteering at community cafés and events helps me connect with others, share knowledge, and support those in need. It's rewarding to see people gain confidence in their health and wellbeing while building friendships along the way. These experiences have not only helped me give back but also feel a true sense of belonging."



## Contact Redbridge Council via British Sign Language service now available

### Deaf people can now contact the Council more easily

Local people can now use a British Sign Language (BSL) service when contacting the Council. This means that those who are deaf can independently call the Council without having to rely on someone else. Local people are welcome to use this service if they need to speak to us about any of our services.

Local people can access the BSL service by visiting the Contact Us page on our website and selecting the button to contact us using a BSL interpreter:

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/contact-us>

**Customer Service Officer, Jyotsna Chauhan said** "The BSL on-demand service has been a lifeline for the deaf community. It has been great to witness how it has empowered Redbridge residents to communicate their concerns, seek guidance, and request assistance from the council. I regularly handle calls through the dedicated line, and I take great pride in seeing the council's dedication to serving its residents."

**Another Customer Service Officer, Georgina Smith said** "I have found the conversations with BSL have gone smoothly and that the residents were happy with how the call went. I believe that they never had to repeat a question and that they felt like that had been listened to and their query was answered."



Customer Services Office Navdeep Claire with a deaf resident whilst in a BSL call with a live interpreter

# CALLING ALL LANDLORDS!

## Selective Licensing Schemes

If you're a Landlord or Agent and you operate any rented property, you may need to apply for a property licence.

Redbridge Council has two selective licensing schemes in place.

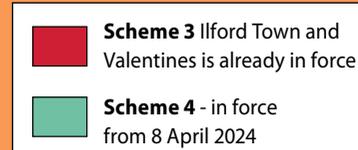
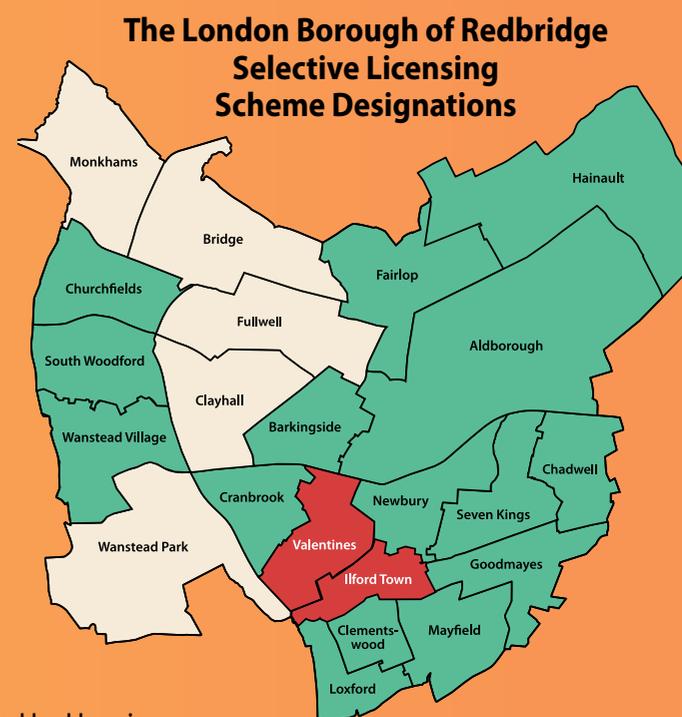
**Selective Scheme 3** (2 wards) has been in operation since **1 November 2023** and applies to rented properties within Ilford Town and Valentines wards.

**Selective Scheme 4** (15 wards) came into force on **Monday 8 April 2024**. The wards affected are: Aldborough, Barkingside, Chadwell, Churchfields, Clementswood, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Goodmayes, Hainault, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury, Seven Kings, South Woodford and Wanstead Village. These schemes require landlords or agents of most private rented properties in these areas to apply for a selective property licence. To apply, visit <https://propertylicensing.redbridge.gov.uk/>

If you already have a selective licence for a property in these wards and it is still in date, the licence will remain in force until the expiry date shown on the licence. These new schemes were introduced after a full public consultation and confirmation by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), who were satisfied that these schemes will contribute to an improvement in general housing conditions in the areas, and that private rented housing in the designated area is experiencing high levels of deprivation, high levels of migration, and significant and persistent antisocial behaviour.

Failing to get a property licence can result in receiving a civil penalty of up to **£30,000** or prosecution in Court, where the fine is **unlimited**. Additionally, not having a property licence may prevent you from evicting tenants using the 'section 21' process. Tenants may also be able to claim back up to 12 months' rent from you, via a **Rent Repayment Order (RRO)**. The Council will normally publish any prosecutions, enforcement, or legal action in the press and update the GLA's public Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker and government intelligence databases.

To find out more information and check whether your rental property needs a Selective or any other type of Licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals)



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice for Scheme 4

## Additional HMO Licensing Scheme

Redbridge Council approved a new five-year Additional Licensing scheme for small Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) across the whole borough. Additional HMO property licensing is now a legal requirement, as of **Monday 18 September 2023 until 17 September 2028**.

This means that any property which is rented to three or four occupiers forming two or more households that share (or lack) a toilet, personal washing facilities or cooking facilities needs to have an HMO Licence.



This includes certain converted blocks of flats (known as Section 257 HMOs), but only where all accommodation units are privately rented, and the building and accommodation units are in the same ownership or control. This includes buildings within mixed use developments or above non-residential premises.

The introduction of this new HMO Licensing Scheme comes after a full public consultation. Overall, it was found that there are significant issues such as poor housing conditions, ineffective management, crime, and antisocial behaviour persisting within HMOs in the borough.

For more information on whether your rental property needs an Additional (HMO) Licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals)



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice

# Fantastic Redbridge children's centre gets magical makeover!

A former Redbridge children's centre, which was transformed and re-named, has become a massive hit with parents as it launches its new summer programme



Mini Explorers, formerly the EYPaD (Early Years Play and Development) centre, was given a makeover last year.

The centre, which is located on The Drive in Ilford, next to Cranbrook Primary School, has facilities for children from birth to 7 years old, including three main playrooms, garden play area, and soft play sensory zone for younger babies, crawlers and children with special educational needs.

Mini Explorers is a hit with local parents. Dentist Inderpal Bhangra from Gants Hill brings daughter Asees, 3, on her days off from work. "Mini Explorers is a brilliant place, it is colourful and welcoming, and the atmosphere is fun and friendly. It offers so many interesting activities, and we love the variety of sessions available," she said.

Victoria Grey, pictured below, from Hornchurch in Havering brings son Roman, 2. She heard about Mini Explorers on social media and visits once a week.



**She said**  
"We use the garden a lot, but Roman enjoys all aspects of coming here; the messy play, sand, water play and the home corner. The garden has a covered space which is perfect when it's raining or during the winter which means we can use it all year around."

Mini Explorers has a fantastic programme starting this summer, including sessions called 'let's get ready

for nursery, nature hunters, toddler yoga, fun cooking, and stories and rhymes. There will also be some special summer events like 'dress up as your favourite character,' 'happy campers' and 'bring your older sibling day.'

Mini Explorers is also available for hire for birthday parties and has rooms available for community hire.

### Further information

Sessions and events can be booked online, by email or by calling. There is a cost for some sessions.

 [redbridgeeducation.co.uk/mini-explorers](http://redbridgeeducation.co.uk/mini-explorers)

 020 8709 2012

 [mini.explorers@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:mini.explorers@redbridge.gov.uk)

 @miniexplorers\_redbridge

## Positive Ageing Week Event

Wednesday 1st October 2025, 10am - 3pm  
Redbridge Central Library, Ilford, IG1 1EA



Following on from the huge success of our 2024 event, we are pleased to invite you to join us on International Day of Older People (Wednesday 1st October 2025) for a range of stalls, information sessions, exercise taster sessions, and advice. Free NHS health checks are also available on the day.

Lunch and refreshments provided, and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

Age UK will also be running various events and sessions across the borough to celebrate Positive Ageing week from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October 2025.



## Tenant Information Pop up sessions

If you are a tenant renting privately come and talk to us at our mobile tenant information sessions.

### TENANTS

- get your free Tenant Information Guide to private renting in Redbridge
- find out about your rights and responsibilities as a tenant
- get advice on how to resolve difficult situations with your landlord
- get housing advice and benefits information
- hear about energy efficiency grants to help save money on utility bills



Venue	Date	Time
<b>Town Hall</b> outside steps 128-142 High Road, Ilford IG1 1DD	11 June	11am-3pm
<b>The Exchange</b> (check our webpage for location) High Road, Ilford IG1 4FA	9 & 23 July	12pm-4pm
<b>Ilford Central Library</b> entrance foyer Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1EA	6 & 20 August	12.30pm-3.30pm

No booking required - just turn up  
[www.redbridge.gov.uk/tenantforum](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/tenantforum)

# Children's rights... how much do you know?

Test your knowledge on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Kids... why not challenge your parents to see who knows more!

These are official legal rights that international governments, including the UK Government, have signed up to. Or are they? Which are true and which are false?

- 1  Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously. **True or false?**
- 2  Every child has the right to privacy. **True or false?**
- 3  Children have the right to their own bedroom and can decorate it in any way they like. **True or false?**
- 4  Every child has the right to an education. **True or false?**
- 5  Children have the right to rest, relax and play. **True or false?**
- 6  Children have the right to be protected from exploitation and from carrying or selling harmful drugs. **True or false?**
- 7  Every child has the right to use a smart phone. **True or false?**



How many did you get right?

Find out more at

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly)

Answers: 1. True, 2. True, 3. False, 4. True, 5. True, 6. True, 7. False

## Want to have fun this summer?

Get into MegaMix! Our much-loved holiday activities programme recently won the prestigious *Supporting Young Londoners Award*



Redbridge Holiday Mega Mix programme has been named the winner of the 'Supporting Young Londoners' award at the London Sport Awards 2025. Why not see for yourself and join the next sessions?

MegaMix is a pick-n-mix programme of activities, many of which cost just £1. They include art and crafts like laser art, glass blowing and painting, as well as physical activities like roller skating classes, and Indian dance fusion.

Over 750 sessions will run this summer, for children of all ages, and sessions are inclusive and open to everyone.

Developing Redbridge's much-loved Megamix has been part of our work towards recognition from UNICEF UK as a child-friendly borough. We're putting children at the heart of our community and creating a place and activities that give them what they need to thrive.

Children loved the Indian fusion dance class



Getting creative in a painting session

### Children told us

"The teachers were brilliant, and very kind."

"I really, really, really, really enjoyed it."

### Parents also rated the sessions

"Great sessions, lovely staff, value for money."

For more information, please visit <https://visionrcl.org.uk/holidaymix/megamix>

# Spotlight on our superb local businesses

Local businesses provide the community with vital products and services; we caught up with three businesses to find out what it takes to run a business in Redbridge



Taari with fellow presenters from Nu Sound Radio

## Nu Sound Radio

Having recently moved from Newham to the heart of Ilford in January 2025, the station has been serving the local community since 2007.

**Taaru Sian, Sales and Marketing Director of Nu Sound Radio said** "We have a dedicated and passionate team of 21 volunteers and two full time members managing operations. With a vibrant, buzzing and diverse community, Redbridge is a thriving hub for businesses and the perfect location for anyone looking to start a new business".



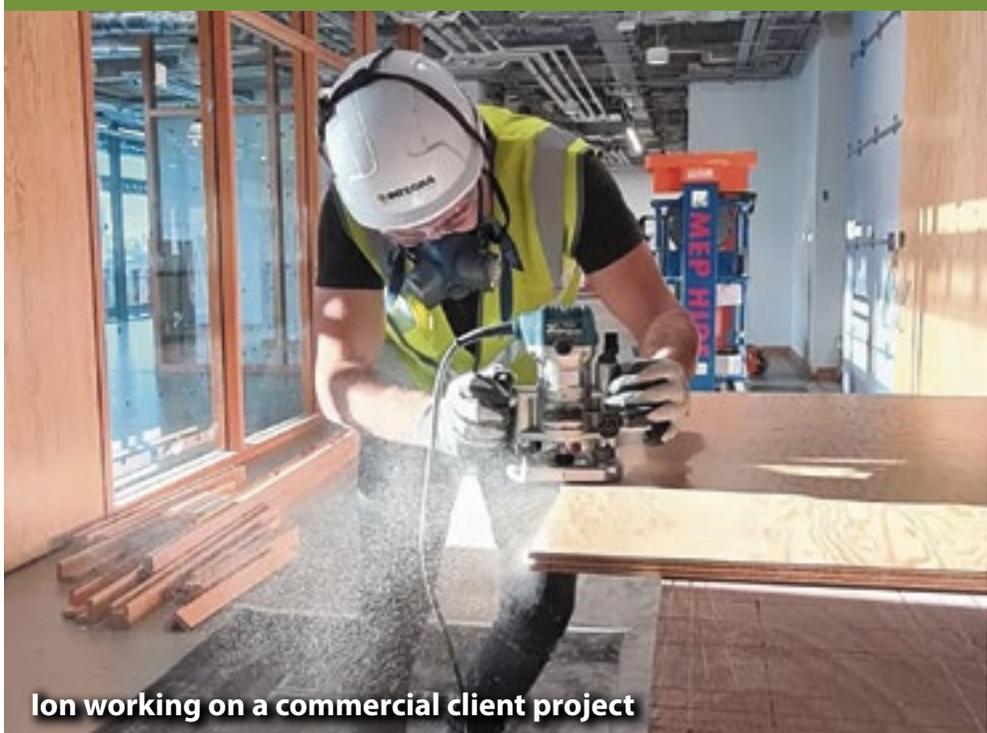
Staff at Metrocoffee are both passionate and hardworking

## Metrocoffee

Metrocoffee is a social enterprise coffee shop in Gants Hill run by husband and wife, David and Anita. They first opened their kiosk in 2017 and have been supporting people with additional needs since 2018.

**David said** "We never thought we would be supporting people with additional needs, but this special journey has made us who we are today. It has been a challenging and tough journey, but we are committed to tackling the growing issue of the rising unemployment rate among people with additional needs in the borough.

"Redbridge is a diverse, vibrant and welcoming borough. If you're thinking of starting a new business in Redbridge, we encourage you to explore the wide range of support available."



Ion working on a commercial client project

## ISC Joinery

Based in Hainault, ISC Joinery is a small construction company run by business owner Ion. ISC specialise in joinery and carpentry, and customers can choose from a range of services including custom made furniture to full property refurbishments and commercial fitouts.

**Ion said** "I moved here after working in the construction industry across Europe. I manage the day-to-day operations, making sure that every project is completed to the highest quality, with attention to detail and craftsmanship.

"Redbridge has a strong sense of community; there's a real connection between local businesses and residents. For anyone looking to start a business in the borough, my advice would be, get to know the community, talk to people, listen to what they need, and concentrate on providing an excellent service."

# Wanstead Leisure Centre one step closer to completion

We're excited to share that the construction of the Wanstead Leisure Centre extension is now in its final phases.

The existing building is being extended to house a new 25-metre swimming pool, dance studios, a modern reception area, new state-of-the-art classrooms for Wanstead High School students and accessible changing rooms.



**Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said**

"While it has taken longer than we would have liked, I'm proud that we're investing in new leisure spaces and classrooms -

especially at a time when many other local authorities are not.

"We appreciate the support and patience shown by the local community and Wanstead High School as we work to provide this vital infrastructure, which will serve the community now and for future generations."

The new facilities will complement the existing Leisure Centre, which has a fully equipped gym,

various fitness classes and squash and badminton courts.



**Brand-new 25m pool under construction**



**New classrooms will offer a comfortable and spacious learning environment**

Further information on memberships will be available later this year. We look forward to sharing more exciting news with you soon. Please visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/wlc>

**HEALTHY  
Redbridge**




# FAMILY FAIR

## FAIRLOP WATERS

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SATURDAY  
**26**  
JULY

TO

SUNDAY  
**31**  
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# There's something Mammoth on Ilford Lane

## Check out three new murals on Ilford Lane

Iford Lane, home to culture, fashion and food is now also home to three incredible pieces of art. The Love the Lane project from Redbridge Council, an initiative dedicated to fostering connection, cohesion, and a strong sense of belonging in the Ilford Lane areas, commissioned three artists to create three different murals for Ilford Lane.

**1** The first to come to the Lane was the nature-based painting on Madras House. Artist Sam Porter from Mural Minded created three beautiful design options that celebrated nature, greenery, and the people of Ilford to bring nature back into the urban environment. The three designs were put to the public to vote for their favourite. The Heron design won with the most votes.

### See the stunning mural on the side of Madras House on Ilford Lane



**2** The second to arrive on Ilford Lane was Marley the Mammoth from Caitlin Atherton, the artist behind the UK's largest recycled bottle cap mural. Caitlin engaged with local schools and people to raise awareness about recycling and sustainability, while also co-designing a mural with the community. The mural is made up of approximately 8,000 plastic bottle lids and was installed on the side of Clementswood Church on Ilford Lane, making it London's largest plastic bottle lid mural.

**Caitlin said** "Marley was designed with the local children of Ilford Lane as well as the local community. We thought about what colours represented the lane, and together we designed this multi-coloured mammoth with his skeleton. We wanted to represent the skeleton that was found and bring it back to life".



**Caitlin puts the final touches to Marley the Mammoth**

Marley represents the mammoth skull and tusks that were discovered near Ilford Lane and are the best-preserved in the UK.

**3** The final mural to be completed on Ilford Lane was 'The Weaver' on Mount Pleasant by artist Shauna Anseo. Following community workshops and consultation, artist Shauna Blanchfield created five beautiful designs. Residents of Mount Pleasant chose their favourite design, 'The Weaver', which is a tribute to the rich history of Ilford Lane and the deep significance of textiles in personal, cultural, and community identity.

### See the beautiful mural on Mount Pleasant on Ilford Lane



## Summer Bank Holiday

There will be a change to your normal household waste and recycling collection days over the August bank holiday period so don't forget to jot down your revised collection dates

### August Bank Holiday collection dates



Normal Collection Date	Revised Collection Date
Monday 25 August	Tuesday 26 August
Tuesday 26 August	Wednesday 27 August
Wednesday 27 August	Thursday 28 August
Thursday 28 August	Friday 29 August
Friday 29 August	Saturday 30 August
Monday 1 September	BACK TO NORMAL



# Love Parks 2025 - Get involved!

Redbridge is home to many beautiful parks – nine of which have Green Flag status making them among the best in the country

Hainault Forest, and Valentines Park have also been recognised among the UK's top ten parks in the prestigious People's Choice Awards 2024.

With so many award-winning parks on your doorstep, now is the time to get exploring. If you haven't visited them all yet, Love Parks 2025 is taking place from 25 July to 3 August, and is the perfect time to start!

### Let's work together to keep our parks looking great

Whether it's picking up after your pooch to dispose of dog mess responsibly, or putting your rubbish in a bin, we can all do our bit to keep our parks looking clean and tidy.

### Volunteering opportunities

Every year 25,000 site visits are undertaken across Redbridge parks just to pick up litter. The work of our Rangers in the parks is also supported by big-hearted volunteers giving up their time to help look after the borough's parks. On average over 10,000 hours of volunteer time supports the rangers in maintaining parks.

Why not show your local park some love for Love Parks week by becoming a volunteer. Find out more: <https://visionrcl.org.uk/parks-outdoor-spaces/volunteering-in-parks-and-open-spaces-2/>

Jan, from Clayhall, is a park volunteer and litter picking hero for Claybury Park. She has dedicated hundreds of hours a year to litter picking and is

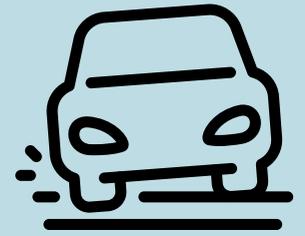
also involved in nature conservation days led by park rangers, with other volunteers, doing all kinds of jobs from cutting back brambles, bushes and shrubs, sowing a wildflower meadow, to painting park gates.



Jan litter picking in Claybury Park

**Speaking about litter picking in the park, Jan said** "I fill one to two bags with rubbish every time I go. It's also a very sociable activity. Over the years I've met many lovely people and made some good friends. Half of the pleasure of what I do is getting out and talking to people. It's good exercise and just so rewarding."

## Potholes we're finding and fixing



We fixed just under 12,000 potholes last year, and are continuing our crusade to make our roads better and safer. As well as fixing potholes as part of our regular road maintenance work, we are running a Find and Fix programme, which started earlier this year. This means we can more quickly repair potholes in roads that need it the most. The roads for Find and Fix pothole repairs are identified in regular safety inspections and surveys.

In the first round of Find and Fix, we repaired 1,723 potholes – in addition to our regular road maintenance work.



Find and Fix pothole repair

**Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Jo Blackman, said**



"We know potholes are not only a nuisance, but also a danger to road users, and can make journeys more difficult than they need to be. We're working hard to fix more potholes across the borough to make our roads better and safer, and give road users a smoother journey."

# Please don't struggle alone

Help is available for cost of living and dealing with debt



If you're on a low income, our specialist teams are here to help you with financial matters. Many residents miss out on benefits simply because they don't know they're eligible.

In 2024 alone, our Benefits Service helped local people claim over £1.6 million in unclaimed benefits - money that went straight back into the pockets of local people.

Want to check if you could be eligible for support?

Visit: [www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-support/intervention-and-support-team](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-support/intervention-and-support-team)

Or call us on 020 8708 4180  
(Monday to Thursday, 9am-12:30pm)

The Ilford Community Grocery sells affordable groceries to Redbridge residents. For just £5 a year, you can become a member and save around 80% on your grocery bills. The store also hosts free workshops including cooking tutorials and money courses.

**Where: 25-29 Clements Road, Ilford**  
**Opening times: Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm**

For more information, head to <https://communitygrocery.org.uk/ilford>

The Debt-Free Hub at Redbridge Central Library offers free, accessible debt advice in a soundproof booth. There's no need to make an appointment, simply drop in and connect with trained advisors via a touch-button system. You'll receive personalised support, including budgeting, setting up payment plans, and developing strategies to overcome your debt.

For further debt support, visit <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/debt-and-money-advice>

Citizens Advice Redbridge offers free, confidential advice on dealing with everyday issues or big life hurdles and can point you in the direction of support available here in Redbridge.

View all their services at <https://www.citizensadviceredbridge.org.uk>



We are here to support residents with completing forms for a range of benefits, including in-work, out-of-work, and disability benefits

# Is your behaviour hurting or frightening someone you care about?

Help is available if you think your behaviour is abusive



Open Up is a programme developed by Redbridge Council for those who have been abusive or frightened a partner, ex-partner, or family member and want to change their behaviour.

We recognise that talking about how you have treated others badly isn't easy. Open Up is a safe space where we will help you to develop

respectful, non-abusive relationships. Our facilitators are non-judgemental, supportive and are with you every step of the way.

Since the programme started in 2020, we have helped over 200 individuals. We want all programme participants and their families to have healthy, respectful relationships and to lead fulfilling lives.

The programme helps you to reflect on what's happening and gives you the tools to make changes to your behaviour.

**An individual who completed the programme said "I was getting to the point where I was so destructive. I was hesitant to join the programme, but it is worth it. My life is so much better and calmer. I know how to control my mind set and my anger."**

The programme is free of charge for Redbridge residents and is open to everyone. You may be invited to take part in either individual sessions, group sessions, or a combination of both.

**Please email us if you want to find out more at [OpenUp@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:OpenUp@redbridge.gov.uk)**

Although the programme is perpetrator-focused, the primary aim of the work is to increase the safety and wellbeing of survivors and their children. The Council also offers support for those who are experiencing harm from a loved one.

**If you need help, advice or are worried for somebody else telephone 0800 145 6410 or email [Reachout@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Reachout@redbridge.gov.uk)**

Please remember to phone 999 if you are in immediate danger. If you dial 999 but it is not safe to speak, press '55' to alert the operator.

# WANSTEAD FESTIVAL

Sunday 14 September  
11am - 6pm  
Christchurch Green Recreation Ground

VISION ISPARKS

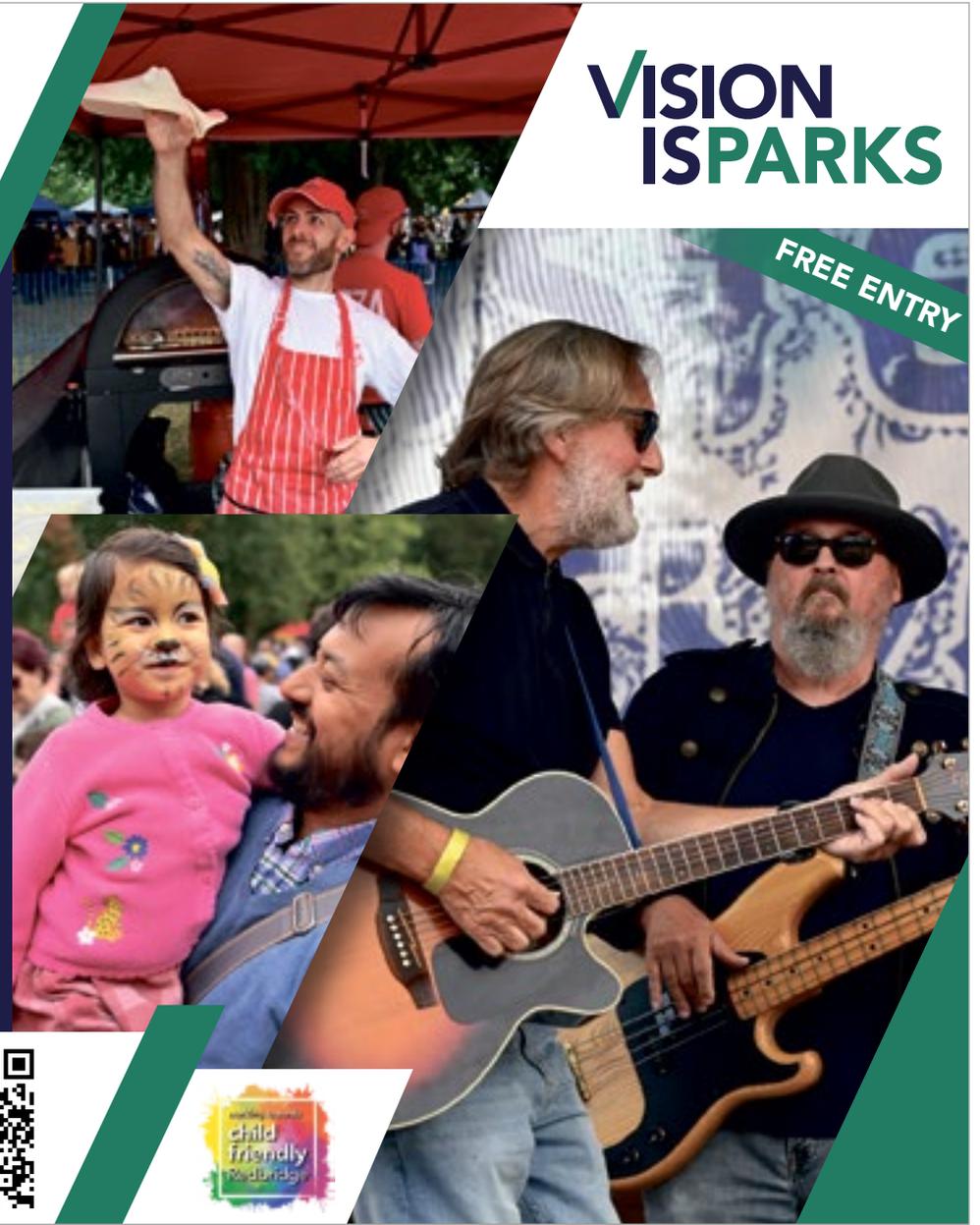
FREE ENTRY

Invite your friends and family to Wanstead Festival for a brilliant day out with great entertainment!

- Afro Classics
- Art Group Wanstead
- Arts and Crafts
- Children's Rides
- Craft Fair Hub
- Delicious Street Food
- Holistic and wellbeing zone
- Land Train
- Live music
- Pop up Pub
- Sports demonstration and displays
- Strolling Performers
- Walkies with Una Dog Competition
- Wanstead Business Network
- Wanstead Shotokan Karate Club

\*Attractions may be subject to change

Scan the QR code or visit:  
[vrcl.uk/wansteadfestival](http://vrcl.uk/wansteadfestival) to learn more



WHAT'S HAPPENING...  
**inILFORD**



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inILFORD

## ILFORD inCOLOUR

COUNTDOWN TO 100 YEARS OF ILFORD

Artists | Performers  
Vibrant Celebration of Art | Culture  
Creativity

Iford is set to burst into colour this summer with the launch of its first-ever  
**Mural Art Festival**

🕒 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

📅 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> August

📍 Iford Town Centre  
(by Redbridge Town Hall),  
SPACE Iford,  
Exchange Iford High Road &  
Cranbrook Road Entrance,  
Bodger Building Station Road.

**SHOWCASE YOUR WORK FOR FREE!**

ARTISTS!  
APPLY HERE



EVENT DETAILS &  
FREE ENTRY



## ILFORD & REDBRIDGE BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

COUNTDOWN TO 100 YEARS OF ILFORD

REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS TO BE NOMINATED IN OUR 2025 ILFORD & REDBRIDGE BUSINESS AWARDS 2025. BUSINESSES IN ILFORD NORTH AND SOUTH ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AND NOMINATED. THE AWARDS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ILFORD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID).

THERE ARE OVER 18 CATEGORIES TO PICK FROM INCLUDING:

Best Beauty Business of the year	Best Fashion Business of the year	Best Finance Sector Business of the year	Best in Customer Service
Best Media Business of the year	Best Sustainable Transition Business	Best Legacy Business	Best New Business
Employer of the Year	Independent Business of the year	Best Hospitality Business of the year	Large Business of the year
Best Dessert Business	Redbridge Business of the year	Best Retail Business of the year	Redbridge Art & Culture Award
Iford Business of the year	Redbridge Beacon Award	Redbridge Social Value Award	Redbridge Health & Wellbeing Champion
Redbridge Safety & Security Award			



REGISTRATION



📍 @ilfordtowncentre | @redbridgecouncil | @exchangeilford

📱 @inilford

REGISTRATION OPEN FROM  
MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> TO JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

HASHTAGS: #ilfbawards #inilford  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS: [www.inilford.com](http://www.inilford.com)

# Promise of 600 new council homes on track

159 homes at Loxford Lane will provide much needed homes for local people and those living in temporary accommodation

As part of our ongoing commitment to tackling the housing crisis and supporting local families, we're making great progress on our largest housing development to date, Loxford Lane. This exciting new development will provide 159 eco-friendly homes, offering much-needed stability for families on our council waiting list and those currently in temporary accommodation.

Once completed, it will bring the total number of new council homes available to local people to over 600, since work began in 2022.

Loxford Lane is the council's largest housing project, featuring a mix of one, two and three bedroom flats, alongside spacious three and four bedroom houses.

But this is about more than new homes. This development will bring improvements to green spaces and play areas, creating a safer and more welcoming environment for children and families to enjoy. Bigger recycling stations will help keep our community clean and sustainable.

Construction began in November 2023, and we remain on track to complete the project by summer 2025. The work is being carried out by our trusted building contractor, Lovells.



**Loxford Lane housing development enters the final phase of completion having started work back in 2023**

**Cllr Saima Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness said**

"Despite rising building costs and increasing demands on housing, we remain committed to providing new homes for our local people in most need. I am delighted with progress look forward to the completion of these homes later this year."

For more information on the homes we are building across the borough, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/affordable-homes-programme>



**Cllr Saima Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness said**

"Our housing staff work with dedication and compassion every single day. They deal with complex cases and see people in heart wrenching situations first hand with no easy fixes available. Despite working in difficult circumstances with a lack of available homes, coupled with huge demand from people impacted by the rising cost of living, our housing team just keep going. Their invaluable work makes a real difference to people's lives in Redbridge. From me, personally, I say thank you."

## A day in the life of a Redbridge temporary accommodation officer

A first hand look at how we help residents find stability and security

Ahsan works as a temporary accommodation officer at Redbridge Council, overseeing contracts for temporary accommodation. His job involves managing repairs, behaviour, and handling eviction notices and supporting those living in temporary accommodation.

We asked Ahsan what it takes to be a temporary accommodation officer and what he enjoys most about his job.

**Ahsan said** "We work with many vulnerable clients, and meeting their housing needs can be emotionally demanding. It can take a toll on your well-being but knowing that you're helping people navigate through difficult circumstances and secure a place to stay is very rewarding. You're making a direct, positive impact on individuals, their families, and their living situations."

"For anyone considering a career as a housing officer, my advice is to develop patience and resilience. The landscape across temporary accommodations can move so fast, and you need to adapt quickly to changing situations, while managing fluctuating caseloads under tight deadlines."

# From bedsit to **bright future**

A new home has provided Bhanu and her family with a fresh start

Last year, we built over 200 new homes for local people in need, giving families from Redbridge the opportunity to have a fresh start. Many of these families had been living in temporary accommodation and others had been waiting on our council housing list for many years.

## Bhanu, a Redbridge resident, shared her story

After their bedsit was demolished to make way for new housing in 2021, Bhanu, her husband, and their two children moved into a one-bedroom flat.

Following the completion of a new development at Little Gearies earlier this year, Bhanu and her family have now moved into a much more spacious three-bedroom property.

## Reflecting on the move Bhanu said

"Our new home has given us a fresh start and made a real difference to our lives. We have had a long and stressful wait, but we now have our dream home thanks to Redbridge Council. We finally have the space we needed after years of living in cramped conditions. The balcony is spacious, and there is plenty of green space for our children to play.

We feel incredibly lucky to permanently have a place we can call home."

Bhanu alongside Cllr Kam Rai and Cllr Ahmed at the opening of Little Gearies housing development



We've made changes to the bidding process for homes. If you're on the housing waiting list, please visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/allocationpolicy>



**TASTER SESSIONS**

**AGES 5 YRS+**

**REDBRIDGE HOLIDAY**

# MEGA MIX

**CINEMA or SWIM for £1**

**28 JULY to 29 August**

**Challenge yourself to try something new this Summer!**

**We have a variety of indoor and outdoor activities for you to come and get involved with:**

- adapted activities
- arts & crafts
- dance and drama
- digital art
- interactive activities
- nature
- roller skating
- sports
- workshops
- and so much more!

Advanced booking required.  
[visionrcl.org.uk/megamix](https://visionrcl.org.uk/megamix)  
Open to Redbridge Residents only

London Borough of Redbridge

working towards  
**child friendly**  
Redbridge

**VISION**  
REDBRIDGE  
CULTURE & LEISURE

# 10

**THINGS EVERY  
REDBRIDGE LANDLORD  
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SELLING OR RENTING**

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